

## PARENT & ATHLETE CONCUSSION INFORMATION SHEET



### WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. A concussion is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. Even a "ding," "getting your bell rung," or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

### WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION?

Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury.

If an athlete reports one or more symptoms of concussion after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, s/he should be kept out of play the day of the injury. The athlete should only return to play with permission from a health care professional experienced in evaluating for concussion.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Most concussions occur without loss of consciousness.
- Athletes who have, at any point in their lives, had a concussion have an increased risk for another concussion.
- Young children and teens are more likely to get a concussion and take longer to recover than adults.

### SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE:

- Headache or "pressure" in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Just not "feeling right" or is "feeling down"

### SIGNS OBSERVED BY COACHING STAFF:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit or fall
- Can't recall events after hit or fall

► **"IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME  
THAN THE WHOLE SEASON"**

## CONCUSSION DANGER SIGNS

In rare cases, a dangerous blood clot may form on the brain in a person with a concussion and crowd the brain against the skull. An athlete should receive immediate medical attention if after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body s/he exhibits any of the following danger signs:

- One pupil larger than the other
- Is drowsy or cannot be awakened
- A headache that gets worse
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech
- Convulsions or seizures
- Cannot recognize people or places
- Becomes increasingly confused, restless, or agitated
- Has unusual behavior
- Loses consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously)

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOUR ATHLETE HAS A CONCUSSION?

1. If you suspect that an athlete has a concussion, remove the athlete from play and seek medical attention. Do not try to judge the severity of the injury yourself. Keep the athlete out of play the day of the injury and until a health care professional, experienced in evaluating for concussion, says s/he is symptom-free and it's OK to return to play.
2. Rest is key to helping an athlete recover from a concussion. Exercising or activities that involve a lot of concentration, such as studying, working on the computer, and playing video games, may cause concussion symptoms to reappear or get worse. After a concussion, returning to sports and school is a gradual process that should be carefully managed and monitored by a health care professional.
3. Remember: Concussions affect people differently. While most athletes with a concussion recover quickly and fully, some will have symptoms that last for days, or even weeks. A more serious concussion can last for months or longer.

## WHY SHOULD AN ATHLETE REPORT THEIR SYMPTOMS?

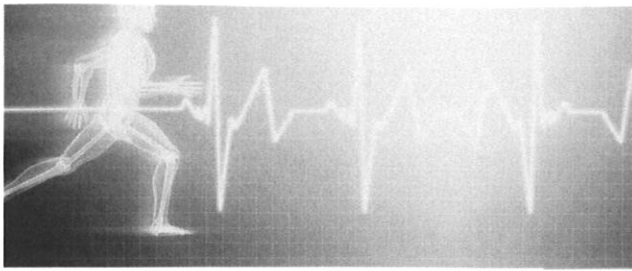
If an athlete has a concussion, his/her brain needs time to heal. While an athlete's brain is still healing, s/he is much more likely to have another concussion. Repeat concussions can increase the time it takes to recover. In rare cases, repeat concussions in young athletes can result in brain swelling or permanent damage to their brain. They can even be fatal.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ➡ [www.facebook.com/CDCHeadsUp](http://www.facebook.com/CDCHeadsUp)

TO LEARN MORE GO TO >> [WWW.CDC.GOV/CONCUSSION](http://WWW.CDC.GOV/CONCUSSION)

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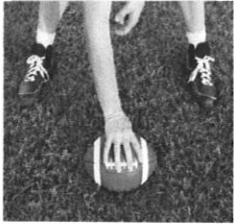


# Sudden Cardiac Arrest

## Information Sheet for

### Student-Athletes, Coaches and Parents/Guardians

SSB 5083 ~ SCA Awareness Act



**What is sudden cardiac arrest?** Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the sudden onset of an abnormal and lethal heart rhythm, causing the heart to stop beating and the individual to collapse. SCA is the leading cause of death in the U.S. afflicting over 300,000 individuals per year.

***SCA is also the leading cause of sudden death in young athletes during sports***

**What causes sudden cardiac arrest?** SCA in young athletes is usually caused by a structural or electrical disorder of the heart. Many of these conditions are inherited (genetic) and can develop as an adolescent or young adult. SCA is more likely during exercise or physical activity, placing student-athletes with undiagnosed heart conditions at greater risk. SCA also can occur from a direct blow to the chest by a firm projectile (baseball, softball, lacrosse ball, or hockey puck) or by chest contact from another player (called "commotio cordis").

While a heart condition may have no warning signs, some young athletes may have symptoms but neglect to tell an adult. If any of the following symptoms are present, a cardiac evaluation by a physician is recommended:

- Passing out during exercise
- Chest pain with exercise
- Excessive shortness of breath with exercise
- Palpitations (heart racing for no reason)
- Unexplained seizures
- A family member with early onset heart disease or sudden death from a heart condition before the age of 40

**How to prevent and treat sudden cardiac arrest?** Some heart conditions at risk for SCA can be detected by a thorough heart screening evaluation. However, all schools and teams should be prepared to respond to a cardiac emergency. Young athletes who suffer SCA are collapsed and unresponsive and may appear to have brief seizure-like activity or abnormal breathing (gaspings). SCA can be effectively treated by immediate recognition, prompt CPR, and quick access to a defibrillator (AED). AEDs are safe, portable devices that read and analyze the heart rhythm and provide an electric shock (if necessary) to restore a normal heart rhythm.

***Remember, to save a life: recognize SCA, call 9-1-1, begin CPR, and use an AED as soon as possible!***



### Cardiac 3-Minute Drill

#### 1. RECOGNIZE

##### Sudden Cardiac Arrest

- Collapsed and unresponsive
- Abnormal breathing
- Seizure-like activity

#### 2. CALL 9-1-1

- Call for help and for an AED

#### 3. CPR

- Begin chest compressions
- Push hard/ push fast (100 per minute)

#### 4. AED

- Use AED as soon as possible

#### 5. CONTINUE CARE

- Continue CPR and AED until EMS arrives



**Be Prepared!  
Every Second  
Counts!**

Maple Valley Parks & Recreation

**YOUTH ATHLETE/PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCUSSION AND SUDDEN  
CARDIAC ARREST AWARENESS COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
initials I (we) have received, read and understand the information presented in the concussion management and sudden cardiac arrest awareness fact sheets.

\_\_\_\_\_  
initials I (we) authorize any necessary emergency medical treatment that might be required for this child in the event of a physical injury and/or accident to the child while participating in this activity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player Name Parent(s) Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # Birthdate Age

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact Emergency Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Family Physician's Name Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

**THIS FORM MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE TEAM'S COACH BEFORE  
PARTICIPATING IN ANY PRACTICE OR GAME. PLAYERS WILL NOT BE  
ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE UNTIL THIS FORM IS RECEIVED.**

The concussion and sudden cardiac awareness fact sheets are available online at [www.maplevalleywa.gov/fun](http://www.maplevalleywa.gov/fun) and the Parks & Recreation Office.